



For Immediate Release:

## Locally Based Team Pelfrey Finishes Second at St. Petersburg and Will Start First and Second for Tomorrow's Race Two



ST. PETERSBURG, FLA. (March 24, 2012) – Young Englishman Jack Hawksworth made an impressive North American debut in today's opening round of the Star Mazda Championship Presented by Goodyear, finishing a strong second on the demanding, 1.8-mile street circuit with the #82 Team Pelfrey/RKM Building Construction Inc./TORGOEN Swiss Watches/EXA Networks Star Mazda.

Hawksworth, 21, from Bradford in West Yorkshire, England, overtook front row qualifier Martin Scuncio on Lap 12 of the 25-lap race and steadily began to close the deficit to race leader Connor De Phillippi. The gap between the pair was a mere 0.486 second at the checkered flag. Hawksworth also posted the

fastest lap of the race to ensure he will start tomorrow's 30-minute race from pole position.

Teammate Petri Suvanto, from Nurmo, Finland, finished fifth in his Star Mazda debut but also displayed his potential by setting the second fastest lap, just 0.004s behind Hawksworth. He will therefore start second tomorrow.

Team Pelfrey's third driver, American Gustavo Menezes, from Coto de Caza, Calif., worked his way from 10<sup>th</sup> to seventh, only to be stricken by a fuel pressure problem in the closing stages, dropping him to an unrepresentative 13<sup>th</sup>. Menezes will start eighth tomorrow.

Race Two on Sunday will start at 10:05 am as one of the supporting races for the opening round of the IZOD IndyCar Series. Live timing and scoring will be available at [www.starmazda.com](http://www.starmazda.com).

- A little earlier this afternoon on the streets of St. Petersburg, Team Pelfrey Development Driver Spencer Pigot, 18, from Orlando, Fla., won Round Three of the Cooper Tires USF2000 Championship Powered by Mazda. It was his second win of the season.

### WHAT THEY SAID:

Jack Hawksworth (#82 Team Pelfrey/RKM Building Construction/TORGOEN Swiss Watches/EXA Networks), started third, finished second – “I’m ecstatic. We had a really good car all the way through the race. There was a lot happening. You have to manage between not putting it in the wall and chasing the guys ahead, and it really came together. We had a really strong run, and to get the two points for fastest lap and pole as well, it’s all going in the right direction. I finally got past Scuncio at the first corner. I got close a couple of times and finally had a better run than him down into there and managed to get the job done, and that freed us up to go after Connor (De Phillippi). Tomorrow’s going to be tough. It’s really good to have both Team Pelfrey cars on the front row, and hopefully we can both push and get away and get a good result and get some more points on the board.”

Petri Suvanto (#81 Team Pelfrey/MAZDASPEED Motorsports Development/RKM Building Construction), started fourth, finished fifth – “I was fast but I always seemed to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. It was a tough race. I dropped one place before the first



corner and another one later on. We had good speed but, unfortunately, it's really hard to pass on this track and I couldn't really use that speed to my advantage and we ended up P5. It's not the best way to start the season but it's still a decent start. The good thing is that we start second tomorrow, so it's an all-Team Pelfrey front row."

Gustavo Menezes (#83 Team Pelfrey/SafetyPark), started 10<sup>th</sup>, finished 13<sup>th</sup> – "The guys put together a good car after what we had in qualifying and I was really happy with it. We had a pretty good start, I gained a position on Lap 1, and from there I worked my way to seventh and I caught the four guys in front of me pretty aggressively. I was getting really close to making a move, and unfortunately at that point, I began to lose fuel pressure. We were able to make it home, which was important -- to score points. It's a long year and I know my guys on this team are working really hard to get it fixed so I can put it on the podium tomorrow, and I think we're very capable."

Team Pelfrey Team Manager Geoff Fickling – "I couldn't be happier with our result today and, more importantly, tomorrow's starting positions with two rookies on the front row for their second race in Star Mazda. That's a pretty good feeling, so I'm looking forward to tomorrow. What's even more encouraging is that Jack set his fastest lap with a bent front wing and Petri set his best lap in traffic so I feel like there's even more pace with clean air."

**About Team Pelfrey:**

Dale Pelfrey's race team, based in the St. Petersburg, Fla., area, is built upon the same principles he used 35 years ago when establishing his business career – hire the best, acquire the best and demand the best in order to achieve the most. After fielding cars in the IZOD IndyCar Series from 1998 until 2000, Team Pelfrey was reformed in 2011, winning on its Star Mazda debut and going on to earn the Team Championship as well as second and third in the drivers' title-chase with Connor De Phillippi and Nick Andries. Team Pelfrey is fielding three cars in the 2012 Star Mazda series in addition to expanding its driver development program within the Mazda Road to Indy ladder system by supporting Spencer Pigot in the USF2000 Championship.

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